

Ford
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill 1903

House Bill 2222

FILED

Date _____

Time _____

Clerk _____

Comm. Amdt. _____

by deleting language in the printed bill in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

Section 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

Section 68-11-259. (a) Each healthcare facility licensed under this chapter shall be prohibited from requiring an uninsured patient to pay for services in an amount that exceeds one hundred and fifty percent (150%) of the average commercial health insurance reimbursement for the services provided.

(b) As used in this section, the following terms shall have the meaning indicated:

(1) "Healthcare facility" means a hospital, ambulatory surgery center, or outpatient diagnostic center.

(2) "Uninsured patient" means a person with no public or private source of payment for medical services, including without limitation, Medicare, TennCare, a contract of insurance, an employer-sponsored health plan, or other enforceable obligation under which a person is responsible for payment for healthcare services provided to the patient.

(3) "Average health insurance reimbursement" means the average of (A) the highest reimbursement for the service permitted under a contract between the provider and a commercial health insurance company and (B) the lowest reimbursement for the service permitted under a contract between the provider and a commercial health insurance company.

(c) Information obtained by the department of health as to the amounts billed for services by a healthcare facility pursuant to this section shall be maintained on a confidential basis.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it.